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appreciable evidence, however, that these opportunities have been effectively exploited. The pronouncements of the Revolutionary Committee remain uncompromisingly anti-Communist.

Diem is attempting to secure closer co-ordination of his own policies with those of the Western powers and to enhance the international status of his government by calling for a French-British-American-Vietnamese conference in Saigon. The government has publicly expressed its objection to the tendency of the Western countries to discuss Vietnamese affairs in the absence of Vietnamese participants.

The ending of the regrouping period for French and Viet Minh forces on 18 May also put a halt to the movement of anti-Viet Minh refugees to South Vietnam. The Viet Minh's systematic obstruction of this movement has been cited by the South Vietnam authorities as grounds for demanding that the original deadline be indefinitely extended, and this view has been presented indirectly to the truce commission.

The Viet Minh has publicly denounced the "forced evacuation" to the south, but according to the Indian truce commissioner, an informal Vietnam-Viet Minh agreement to extend the deadline had been reached at Geneva. (SECRET NOFORN)

#### SOVIET AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Flights in the Moscow area during the past six weeks have included types and numbers of aircraft that provide important clues on Soviet aircraft developments.

These sightings indicate that the Soviet Union is making rapid progress in building up its strategic bomber force. They also indicate that the USSR is strengthening its defensive capabilities with the development of new fighter aircraft types.

A Soviet aircraft which apparently was a prototype jet heavy bomber comparable to the American B-52 was first observed a little over a year ago. Today the USSR probably has in operational units up to

20 of these high-performance planes (designated BISONS, or Type 37's in Western intelligence terminology). The combat radius of this aircraft is 2,750 nautical miles, which means that it could reach the northwestern part of the United States on unrefueled, two-way missions from Siberian forward bases.

At least 13 and possibly as many as 19 BISONS participated in the various flyby's around Moscow. According to preliminary estimates, a total of 40 will have been produced by the end of next month and about 300 by mid-1957, 200 of which would be in operational units.

A new turboprop bomber, the BEAR (no numeral designation)

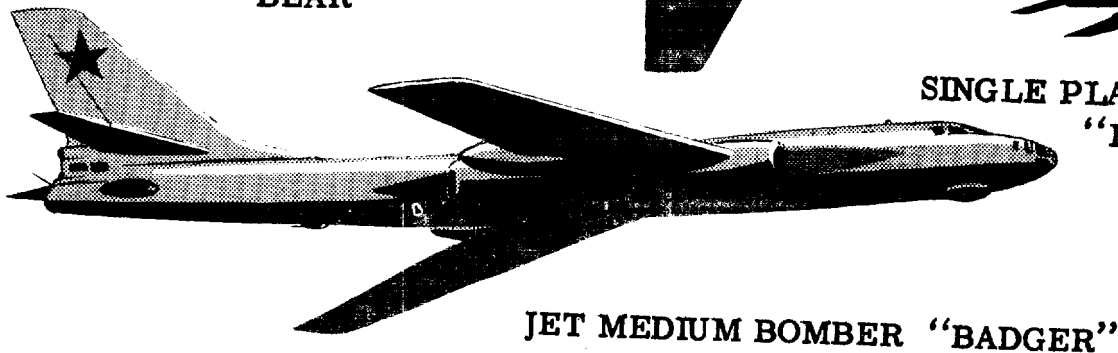
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which appeared in some of the formations, is probably capable of making round-trip missions from peripheral Soviet bases to most parts of the continental United States (all except the southeastern area) without refueling. According to preliminary evaluation, it has a combat radius--3,700 nautical miles--which places it in the heavy bomber category, a speed of 450 knots, and a

combat ceiling of 40,000 feet. At least nine and possibly 12 BEARS have been seen recently in the Moscow area.

Recent Moscow flights also included two new jet fighters, the FLASHLIGHT and the FARMER (no numerical designations). The number of those aircraft observed, 33 and 48 respectively, indicate series production.

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The FLASHLIGHT is a twin-engine jet fighter similar in some respects to the US F-94. It probably is an all-weather fighter carrying air-borne intercept radar equipment. The availability of the FLASHLIGHT indicates that the Soviet Union is overcoming the major deficiency of its air defense system to date, namely, poor interception capabilities under conditions of limited visibility.

The FARMER is believed to be a day fighter. Preliminary evaluations of performance indicate that it has supersonic speed capabilities in level flight, a combat ceiling of 57,000 feet, a combat radius of 200 nautical miles, and an ability to reach 40,000 feet in five minutes after take-off. (SECRET NOFORN) (Concurred in by ORR)

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